



All Things New

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

"I'm new." It's an excuse that I don't plan on using often or long here at Fayetteville First UMC, but I do intend to ride it out for a while. I have a lot to learn and I know that. There will be mistakes made. And my go-to excuse will be ready, "I'm new."

It is easy to hide behind those kinds of excuses at times in our lives. We do so at the start of a new job, a new school year, a time of transition, or a move. But if we rest on that excuse, or any excuse, we don't leave room for the Gospel found in that expression, "I'm new."

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read these words, *"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"* There is the Gospel in the phrase "I'm new." In Christ, each of us is made new. We are not made

for excuses, but freed for service and giving and living and loving together. What a blessing to be called children of God that we might be given that love.

I'm new. You are new. We will find God's presence in the newness of each day. May we experience God's new life in the ordinary and in the extraordinary. May we find and experience God because God is making all things new. Whether you find yourself in the middle of a new job, new school year, or new home, I pray you will join us as we experience the newness of God's love together.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin with wife, Leslie, son, Davis, and daughters Mills and Mary Ellis.

August 2019

Upcoming:

August 4

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 11

Promotion Sunday

August 18

Rise Against Hunger

August 28

Confirmation Orientation



175 East Lanier Avenue
Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313
fayettevillefirst.com

Our Church Family

Caring for each other and our community



growing in
nurture
II Peter 3:18



growing in
outreach
Matthew 5:16



growing in
worship
Psalm 100:2

In Memoriam: Marguerite Pitner
June 13

Connie Gouge
July 8

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Yvette, Katie & Michelle Elliott and Harry White upon the death of Yvette's father, Benny R. Gordon, on May 12.
Bonnie Giglio (Jeff) and Steve Pitner (Sherry) and families upon the death of their mother, Marguerite Pitner,
on June 13.

Ben and Anne Free upon the death of Anne's mother, Kate Tisdale Byrd, on July 5.

Jack and Mitzi Gary and family upon the death of Jack's father, Jack E. Gary, Sr., on July 6.

Minor Gouge and family upon the death of Minor's wife, Connie Gouge, on July 8.

Gary and Lynne Wood and family upon the death of Lynne's mother, Shirley Rice, on July 10.

In Our Prayers:

Billy Arnold
Carolyn Broady
Annelle Burch
Richard Clayton
Elizabeth Dunn

Kassandra Dzenis
Margaret Grainger
Rebecca Greenberg
Martha Hale
Doris Kerlin

Robertine Mitchely
Lurlene Perry
Mary Pierson
Evelyn Starling
Dorothy Swanson

Jack Wheeler
Brad Wilkinson

Notes of Thanks

The family of Carol Holland would like to express our sincere gratitude for the love and support given to us by the staff and members of FFUMC. We are deeply thankful for those who volunteered their time and talents for her memorial service and reception. — Charlotte, Lisa, and Spencer Holland

We thank all those who sent well wishes to us during David's illness as well as thanks for the prayers and thoughts for us. — David and Pat Hobson

Many thanks to FFUMC members and the Flower Ministry for the beautiful red, white and blue flowers hand-delivered by Betty McKibben. Not only did they brighten our home for July 4th, but they significantly lifted our spirits. God bless you all. — Jack and Margie Wheeler

Making a
Difference
NOW

Capital Campaign Update:

Received: \$232,793.90

Phase 1: Completed! Youth Space Open!

Needed to Complete Phase 2

Fellowship Hall/Community Courtyard

\$67,206.10


Welcome

New Members

Natasha Menko
140 Birdsong Lane
Fayetteville, GA 30215

Leslie Martin
185 Taylor Ridge Court
Tyrone, GA 30290

New FFUMC Pictorial Directory will be made this fall.
Watch for Sunday and Wednesday photo session signups
available August 25 - October 13.

Church Membership: 1780

Giving (as of July 23)

Year-to-Date Receipts: \$742,087.48

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$775,506.90

Shortfall: \$33,419.42

Connecting to change our world

Pre-event lunch: noon Packing event: 1-3 p.m.

Rise Against Hunger is an exciting mix of production, competition and cooperation. We began preparing for this event during Lent with our second-mile giving that raised \$5,424.47. This offering, combined with our giving to our General Budget and direct donations, amounted to \$9,707.92 and enables us to again prepare over 30,000 meals. These highly nutritious meals provide important sustenance for crisis areas and school feeding programs around the world. Invite a friend and connect with your church family as we all work together for a good cause. To join in a pre-event church-wide lunch, please make a reservation at fayettevillefirst.com by August 11.



A collage of words related to kindness and generosity, including 'Benevolence', 'Kindness', 'Generosity', 'Grace', 'Sympathy', and 'Goodness'. The words are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion, with 'Benevolence' being the most prominent in the center.

Did you know that the church benevolence fund has helped 52 individuals or families totaling more than \$14,000 so far this year? That is money that you have placed on the altar rail on communion Sundays or donated at other times. Many of our neighbors in Fayette County and even some right here in this church experience difficulties making ends meet. It may be due to an accident, illness, loss of job or other life situation that causes folks to fall behind in their rent or utility bills. That's where we can help.

We partner with Fayette Samaritans and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Gabriel Catholic Church and Holy Trinity Catholic Church. These organizations have the staff to properly check out the situations of those seeking assistance and we rely on them. Sometimes we are able to write a check to pay a bill and other times we provide a letter of commitment that says we will help when the client has secured the balance that is owed. A small committee of FFUMC accepts and reviews the applications. Those seeking assistance are required to fill out an application and provide a copy of a photo ID and the bill that they are asking to be paid. They must also provide a copy of the voucher that they receive from the other organizations. We limit help to once a year with a maximum of \$300 providing they are Fayette County residents. Applications are accepted on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and noon.

Your contributions make this vital ministry possible. Let us continue to serve the needs of our neighbors.

During seven weeks of summer lunch, volunteers served about 84 families 1800 lunches with 2100 sandwiches, averaging 250 lunches and 300 sandwiches each week.

A big thank you goes to 60 volunteers each week who were cookie bakers, packers, sandwich makers, and drivers. Churches represented at FFUMC on Tuesdays include Olivet, Inman UMC, and Providence UMC. Participants in Adults in Action Ministry helped each week as well.



GriefShare: Where No One Walks Alone



GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays starting August 19 for a 13-week session from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room B355. Follow the GriefShare link at griefshare.org for session topics and descriptions. For more information, contact the Webbs, 404-234-1056. Register to attend at fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313.

Promotion Sunday, Bibles and Acolytes: August 11



Join with our church family as we celebrate milestone moments in our lives. This year we recognize our rising 2nd, 3rd and 6th grade students, presenting them with Bibles, and we recognize our students who will begin their journey through confirmation on what we call Promotion Sunday, August 11, at the 11 a.m. service.

Following worship on August 11, rising third graders and families are invited for a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall and then to the sanctuary to explore the ministry of acolytes, their first leadership opportunity within the life of the church. From the age of 8 to 18, students serving as acolytes and crucifers bring the light of Christ and the cross into our weekly worship experience. After worship, they lead us out of our sanctuary to be one in ministry to all the world, reminding us of our shared mission as Christians. If you know a rising third grader or older student who would be a good candidate for this servant leadership ministry contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence. Acolytes can sign up for our information and training event at fayettevillefirst.com.

Jesus in the Gospels: 30-Week Study Begins September 4

Jesus in the Gospels takes participants deeper into Scripture as they look up and compare passages and make notes on them. Students study names, places, and people and encounter the Jesus who is both hard to ignore and hard to control — a commanding, morally compelling figure as portrayed in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Examining different accounts of the same or similar material brings richness and texture to study. What is attainable is a faith interpretation of Jesus' life and works gleaned from the writings of those closest to the life of Christ: the four Gospels. This is a 30-week study, beginning with an orientation class Wednesday, September 4, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Contact Kathie Hansen (678-592-5177) or Karen Dunn (832-971-6258) with questions. Register for *Jesus in the Gospels* by August 21 at fayettevillefirst.com. Cost: \$50

Table Groups

Want to know more about Table Groups? Come to an information session and hear from current Table Group participants and facilitators on August 25 in the Fellowship Hall, Room A40, at 4 p.m.



Preparing for a Different Christmas Now

Join others who want to prepare now for a more spiritual, less frantic Christmas observance. Choice of two times: Thursday, August 8, at 2 p.m. or Saturday, August 10, at 10 a.m. Our guidebook will be *The Season of the Nativity* by Sybil MacBeth. Cost is \$20 including book. Contact Carol Webb, carolbass@bellsouth.net, or Lea Agnew, leaagnew@bellsouth.net, for questions. Register at fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313 by August 4.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Summer Ministry & Fall Plans | Kena Newkirk

This summer has been filled with our Renova2us Rafting retreat, VBS, Create Bible Study, leadership conference and lots of fun events. Now we are ready to kick-off a new school year.

The Foundry Is Open

This will be our first fall in our new youth space! The first building owned by Methodists was an old foundry building which they used for worship and small group meetings. We are excited to welcome everyone to our new space named The Foundry in honor of our Methodist history. Throughout the year, we will be focusing as a group on our 7 values: 1) Trusting God 2) Experiencing Jesus 3) Growing in the Spirit 4) Engaging Scripture 5) Cultivating Wisdom 6) Forming Purpose 7) Serving our Neighbors. Find out more in our youth section at fayettevillefirst.com.



Also new this year, Confirmation students will meet on Wednesday nights. Confirmation is a time set apart to study, discern, and grow in faith while bonding with a group of fellow confirmation students.

Sixth-grade students are invited to be a part of 8th Period after school, Wednesday night dinner at 5 p.m. and youth worship at 6 p.m. before moving to their special Confirmation lesson and small groups in a separate classroom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Students are required to attend the Confirmation Retreat, February 14-17, complete an exit interview, and attend 15 of 20 classes to be confirmed.



Coming Soon

August 2-3: LaGrange District Lock-In*

August 11: Promotion Sunday and Bible Distribution (6th Grade)

August 28: Parent/Student Confirmation Orientation, 6-7:30 p.m.*

September 4: Wednesday Kickoff*

September 14: Atlanta United Game*

September 18: Parent Open House

Register Online

Pick-up a full calendar of events in the Welcome Center!



**Your generous donations to the
Making A Difference NOW
Capital Campaign made our new
youth space a reality.**

Thank you!

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

For the **WHOLE** family | Rev. Carson Thaxton

FOR Fayetteville and Beyond

We lived into our theme FOR Fayetteville and Beyond in many ways this summer.

Vacation Bible School took over 200 campers and 70 adult and youth volunteers *To Mars and Beyond* as this place was transformed into a command center to learn about God's enormous love that stretches even across the galaxies.

M.A.D. Camp was a blast as more than 40 campers experienced music, art, and drama to discover talent they didn't even know they had. It was incredible to see so many strangers at the start of the week become fast friends and work together to make an absolutely amazing closing experience for family and friends.

The **VBS Mission Project** helped Spring Hill Elementary and North Fayette Elementary by raising 2,400 school supply items.

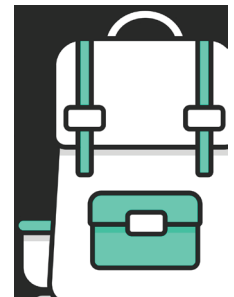
Bekah Kirk, school counselor for both schools, was so thankful for these donations to help many families during this school year. Thank you for giving! As we learn how Jesus cared for others near and far we continually try to emulate by reaching out for our neighbors — FOR Fayetteville and Beyond.



School counselor Bekah Kirk appreciates your generous donations for two local schools as our VBS mission project.

Blessing of the Backpacks and Movin' On Up

At all services on August 4, we get to thank our local teachers and encourage and pray for our children and those who educate them. If you are a student, parent, administrator, school employee, or just plain glad that our schools are here — you do not want to miss this day as we pray for blessings on our schools. Being FOR Fayetteville and Beyond has led us to see all the wonderful people around us that work with our children in a new light. We appreciate you! *Students: You are invited to bring your backpack to church on this special day.* On the following Sunday, August 11, all students are movin' on up! We will have a special Sunday School celebration as kids move to their new grade at 9:45 a.m. and rising 2nd and 3rd graders receive their own Bibles at the 11 a.m. service. Please celebrate with these students as they move into a new school year!



Meet New Preschool Director Kerry Bleil

"Being patient is hard. As a military spouse I often felt like the queen of impatience as we waited for deployments to end, anticipated new assignments, dreamed about the perfect home, and looked for the right school for our girls. Sometimes things didn't fall into place until the very last minute causing impatience in our household to go through the roof. Every move meant pursuing a new job for myself, too, but I had to be patient and wait to job hunt until our family was settled in our new home and schools. Sometimes promising interviews went nowhere, and sometimes I had students so special that I knew that God put both of us in that exact

classroom because we needed to learn from each other. When we moved to Fayetteville, I looked forward to finding a place where I could make a difference in the lives of children. It has taken two years of patience and prayers, but once again I believe God has put me exactly where He needs me. I am excited to be at FFUMC Preschool and I pray God works through me to help give our young learners exactly what they need exactly when they need it. I can't wait to meet our students and see what God does this year!

What's Happening @ Fayetteville First UMC

Get specific information on happenings and times at fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313.

Regular Sunday Schedule

Choir Practice: 7:50 a.m.
Worship in Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.
Coffee & Donuts: 9 a.m.
Sunday Small Groups: 9:45 a.m.
Worship in Chapel: 9:45 a.m.
Choir Practice: 10:30 a.m.
Worship in Sanctuary: 11 a.m.
Kids Wonders of Worship: 11:30 a.m.
AA: 3 p.m.

Regular Monday Schedule

Move 4 Life: 2 p.m.
AA: 7 p.m.

Regular Tuesday Schedule

Card Ministry: 10 a.m.
Cocaine Anon.: 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anon.: 7:30 p.m.

Regular Wednesday Schedule

Table Group: 9:30 a.m.
Move 4 Life: 10:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous: 12 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer: 12:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: 6:15 p.m.*
Music Rehearsals: 7:30 p.m.
AA: 8 p.m.

Regular Thursday Schedule

Table Group (Men): 10 a.m.
Yoga: 9 a.m.

Yoga: 5:45 p.m.
Narcotics Anon.: 7:30 p.m.

Regular Friday Schedule

Gremlin Growlers Table Group: 10 a.m.
AA: 7 p.m.

Regular Saturday Schedule

Narcotics Anon.: 7 p.m.
AA: 8 p.m.

**Study meets every other week: 8/14, 8/28*

Other Meetings

Square Foot Ministry, 8/8: 6:30 p.m.
Green Team, 8/8: 1 p.m.
Do Christmas Differently: 8/8, 2 p.m.
Do Christmas Differently: 8/10, 10 a.m.
UMW Board Meeting, 8/15: 6:30 p.m.
Trustee: 8/20, 6 p.m.
Finance: 8/20, 6 p.m.
Church Council: 8/20, 7 p.m.
Square Foot Workday: 8/24, 8:30 a.m.
Confirmation Orientation: 8/28, 6 p.m.

Rise Against Hunger August 18 Meal Packing Event

1 to 3 p.m. in gym
Register for pre-event lunch at
fayettevillefirst.com.

Fall Programs Begin After Labor Day

All regular studies and programs will resume after Labor Day. Look for the FFUMC Fall Guide (available August 18). You'll find meaningful faith connection points for children, youth, adults and seniors.

Seniors: Get Ready

Seniors mark the first event of the Fall Programs when Titus II resumes on September 3 at noon as Danny Beck & Friends present a musical program. Lunch reservations are due August 29.



**Last summer
Fundraiser
5 - 9:30 p.m.
August 13**



It's a Great Time to Sing!



The Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. beginning August 14. Some wonderful pieces are lined up with outstanding instrumentalists to accompany the group, and Christmas music will be rehearsed very soon. It's a great group so come be a part of it. If mid-week rehearsals don't fit your schedule, please consider singing with the early choir which meets Sunday mornings at 7:50 a.m.

Six for Supper: Sign up by August 19



A great way to form new friendships, meet new people in our church, and deepen relationships: that's Six for Supper. New groups are forming soon for the months of September, October and November. How does it work? Three couples (or two couples and two singles or any variation) are grouped together. Over the three months, the participants gather for meals. Once you sign up, a coordinator will assign groups and notify participants. Groups then coordinate details among each other. Sign up at fayettevillefirst.com by August 19.



God's Kingdom NOW at FFUMC

Your church on the square

Pastoral & Program Staff

Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
TMartin@fayettevillefirst.com

Associate Minister

Rev. Allyson Lawrence
ALawrence@fayettevillefirst.com

Director of Youth Ministry

Kena Newkirk
KNewkirk@fayettevillefirst.com

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Jordan Hart
JHart@fayettevillefirst.com

Director of Children & Family Ministry

Rev. Carson Thaxton
CThaxton@fayettevillefirst.com

Assistant Director of Children & Family Ministry

Allie Hansen
AHansen@fayettevillefirst.com

Music Director / Organist

Rick Massengale
Rick.Massengale@gmail.com

Nursery Coordinator

Connie Little

Pianist

Sonia Squires

Pre-School/ MMO

Kerry Bleil
KBleil@fayettevillefirst.com

Administrative & Support Staff

Administrator

Joyce Mucha
JMucha@fayettevillefirst.com

Administrative Assistants

Janet Gazaway
Dian Nelson
admin@fayettevillefirst.com

Church Hostess

Jane Davis

Communications

Joan Aycock
JAycock@fayettevillefirst.com

Facilities Manager

Gary Sampson

FFUMC
175 E. Lanier Ave
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #20

Return Service Requested



August 18

Churchwide Lunch: Noon

Reserve by August 11

Packing Event: 1-3 p.m.

Let's RISE together!

